(c) Government's plan to stop drainage of rain-water in the heavily rainfall areas of the country; and

(d) the plan of Government to maintain equilibrium of the flow of water between the excess and deficit area interms of rainfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The water utilization from snow-melt and rainfall by animals and plant kingdom have not been assessed separately.

(b) The watershed management is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, under a scheme namely National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) which is under implementation from 1990-91in 28 States and 2 Union Territories. The Programme has been successful in respect of *inter-alia* conservation development and sustainable Natural Resources.

(c) and (d) In order to augment the rain water drained in heavily rainfall areas, the Government has built storage dams in the country and many contemplated schemes are under various stages of construction. Some schemes are at investigation and planning stage. The Government of India has formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development, which envisages interlinking various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins. The plan for interlinking of rivers intends to reduce the regional imbalances of water.

Proposal for Flood Control in Bihar

†1017. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Government of Bihar for flood control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what action has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, what action Government have taken to control floods at their own level?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Flood Management being a State subject, the flood control schemes are planned, funded and executed by the State Govt. themselves as per their priorities and availability of funds for the purpose. The sehemes up to Rs. 3 crores are cleared by the State Govt. on their own and the schemes costing more than Rs. 3 crores are submitted to Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) fortechno-economic examination and if found acceptable,these are recommended to the Planning Commission for investment clearance.

During the last 3 years, as on 31.03.2003., 11 schemes were cleared by GFCC, for 7 schemes the compliance of observations of GFCC is awaited from the State Government and 2 scheme were returned to State Govt. as the cost after examination went below Rs. 3.00 crore. Four schemes remained under examination in GFCC.

(d) Although Flood Management is a State subject, the Central Government has also been taking various measures in this direction as mentioned here under:

Ganga Flood Control Commission under the Ministry of Water Resources, constituted by the Central Government in 1972, had prepared comprehensive master plans for flood management of all the 23 river systems in the Ganga basin, which were sent to the State Government for taking follow up action on the recommendations contained therein.

In addition the Government of India also constituted a number of Committees/Task Force/Expert Groups including setting up of Rashtriya Barh Ayog in 1976 to study the various issues relating to Flood Management, the recommendations of which have been sent to the State Governments including Bihar for taking follow up action.

A nationwide flood forecasting and warning system has been established by Central Water Commission which issues flood forecasts at 161 stations, out of which 32 flood forecast stations are located on rivers in Bihar. On an average 1500 forecasts are issued every year by CWC at the above stations.

An agreement has also been reached with Nepal and the Government of India has approved a scheme for setting up of Joint

Project Office to take up field investigations, studies and preparation of Detailed Project Report of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion scheme. The project *inter-alia* will have flood control benefits for the State of Bihar.

For dealing with the problem of in undation in the vicinity of India—Nepal border, a Standing Committee on In undation Problems between India and Nepal is also functioning since 1986. So far, twelve meetings have been held in which various issues have been sorted out.

The Government of India has also been providing financial assistance to the State Governments including Bihar to take up critical anti erosion and other flood management works. An amount of Rs. 44.85 crore was released to the Government of Bihar as central assistance under various centrally sponsored schemes during the 9th Plan and an amount of Rs. 21.87 crore was released during 2002-03.

Linking of Manas Sankop-Tista-Ganga River

†1018. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Environment and Forests has rejected the project of linking Manas Sankop-Tista-Ganga rivers due to environmental reasons;

(b) if so, the details of objections raised by that Ministry; and

(c) whether these objections apply to the projects of inter-linking of other rivers also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir. Ministry of Environment and Forests has only listed out environmental concerns which need to be addressed in the project formulation exercise for interlinking of rivers. These concerns relate to submergence of forests, wildlife sanctuaries and cultivated areas, rehabilitation & resettlement, siltation, bio-diversity loss, impacts on river hydrology and eco system, aquatic aspect, salinity and water logging.ground water pollution, conjunctive use etc. Such issues are considered while planning the water resources project.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.